All I can say is, the first club meeting of 2019 was awesome! I think someone said we had seventeen people present. One was Ron, who wasn’t licensed yet, but was looking to be licensed soon. He found information about the club meeting on our club website, www.w4cq.org. Stop by there and check it out.

Susan Nosko N4PSN has been working hard on The Connector, our newsletter. Shawn Goodin K4RSG and Mike Miranda W4DXL have been keeping me straight on our membership stuff and the website. We’ve been working on our own email reflector, thanks again to Shawn. As I said before, **many thanks** to John Covington W4CC, for hosting our email reflector these many years! Someone said 22 years! I can’t forget our Treasurer Joe Ducar KJ4QFV for all the hard work pulling together all the membership applications and dues that have come in! I’m looking forward to hearing our membership roster update at the club meeting. If you haven’t submitted your renewal yet, you can go to our club website (www.w4cq.org) to locate a membership application. You can send your dues to Joe’s home address, located at the bottom of the application. Thanks, Joe!

We’re current with all of our leases where our repeaters are located. Thanks to David WD4DDC, our Insurance Man, for providing our insurance information to these folks. Hey, if you couldn’t attend the club meeting on Saturday, January 5, David gave a great program on Remote Shack (www.remoteshack.com). Maybe he can put some information about it up on our website?? *(hint, hint, David!)*

Thanks to John McDermott KK4LZN for keeping up our Facebook page. He’ll add Shawn as one of the administrators so we can get some updated content on there.

As a reminder, if you add information about our club anywhere, please don’t use w4cq.us. Shawn advised us at the club meeting that we don’t own it anymore — and the people who own it want to charge us lot of money to get it back. So our official address is w4cq.org!

I’ve been trying to add the dates of several upcoming hamfests to our website calendar, so check it out! The only ones I know of which would conflict with upcoming meeting dates are the Salisbury Hamfest (July 6) and the Rock Hill Hamfest (October 5), so we’ll move our
meetings to July 13 and October 12 for those months. Again, check out our website for information.

I tell you — this is just the tip of the iceberg. Make plans to come out to the club meeting on Saturday, February 2, at 9:30am. We meet in the Salvation Army Headquarters, 501 Archdale Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28217. If you can’t get in, call my cell 704-577-3619. Bring your dues and membership application, if you haven’t already. We have an updated membership application on the website, if you need one (www.w4cq.org).

Thanks and 73!!!
Jeff Blythe KA4WYC
President, Charlotte Amateur Radio Club

When and Where We Meet

All are welcome to attend!

W4CQ Club Business Meetings (1st Saturday of each month) at 9:30am, held at the Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters (501 Archdale Drive, in Charlotte, Exit 4 off I-77). We meet in a secured facility, so please be on time to ensure entry. If you know you’re going to be late, please call/text the Club President Jeff Blythe (704-577-3619).

Shortwave Station (3rd Saturday of each month) at 8:30am-1:00pm, located at the Mint Hill Historical Society in the Gold Assay Office (7601 Matthews Mint Hill Road, Mint Hill, NC).

Please visit our website for more information: www.w4cq.org.

W4CQ Repeaters

147.06 (-600 KHz) WB4ETF On the air at Well Fargo II (400 ft)

444.675 (+5.0 MHz) – W4WBT
400 ft Charlotte

444.45 (+5.0 MHz) PL 82.5 W4CQ
Channel 36 tower in Dallas. (1500ft)

222.420 (-4.0Mhz) – PL 82.5 KA4WMZ
Channel 36 Tower in Dallas (1500 ft)
Joint project with KA4YMY
Thoughts & Prayers

Please keep our country, our leaders in our prayers. Let’s always remember those who are serving in uniform to keep us safe.

Upcoming Events!

Mint Hill Historical Society SW Station

Come to the Mint Hill Historical Society on the third Saturday of each month, from 8:30am to 1:00pm. We set up a HF short wave station in the Gold Assay office.

We have made contacts all over the world. Most everywhere in Europe, Israel, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Iceland, Greenland, Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, and more.

73, Joe Ducar KJ4QFV

VE Sessions!

Our next MARS-sponsored sessions will be on Saturday, February 16, 2019, at 9:00am at the St. Giles Presbyterian Church gymnasium (2027 Emerywood Drive, Charlotte, NC). Registration will begin sharply at 9:00am; testing will follow. The VE will conduct all exam levels.

Please bring the following to the exam session: $10 for the testing fee (cash preferred), a photo ID (driver’s license, etc.), and if already a licensed ham radio operator, your original license and a copy to leave with the examiners, any active CSCEs and a copy of each that you will be using. If you have any questions about the exam session, please contact me at ki4faq@gmail.com or 704-641-0959.

73, Steven Burke KI4FAQ
MARS-WCARS VEC Liaison

The Carolina Amateur Radio Club VE Test Group will test each first and fourth Thursday at 7:00pm. The meeting and testing location is the North Highway 321 Volunteer Fire Department, 3679 Maiden Highway, Lincolnton, NC. Testing for most sessions will be under The Laurel VEC. This means no test fee. As with all test sessions, applicants must bring picture ID, copy of existing license and FRN Number. For new applicants (Technician Test) who don't have an FRN number, a Social Security number will suffice.

For question or pre-registration, applicants may call me directly.

73, John M. Setzler, W4HKY, Team Leader, Carolina VE Test Group, 828-404-2066, nikonjohn@setzler.net
W4CQ Christmas Party!

So You Want To Learn (Brush-up) on CW?

I was licensed in 1980 as a Novice KA4WYC. Man, that seems a long time ago! 39 years this November! Back then, as the ole timers say, the FCC required Morse Code: 5 WPM for Novice, 13 WPM for General, and 20 WPM for Extra. In a motion from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the FCC dropped the requirement for Morse Code in 2007. I remember there was a huge uproar on the dropping of CW from the licensing requirements. It seems you were on one side or the other. The Extras before the change called the Extras after the change “Extra Lites” (like Bud Lites)! Many thought this was the downfall of amateur radio. Some thought it would wind up like 27mHz! But it didn’t, and hasn’t! If you tune down to the lower portions of the HF bands, CW is still strong! More so than ever! Check out CW Clubs like SKCC or FISTS. (More about these two later.) Their members rank in the tens of thousands.

But that’s not what this article is about. I’ll provide you with some information so you can go from zero to 15WPM in no time — but it takes a desire to learn another language. I passed a 5 WPM exam in 1980, but never did make use of HF back then. I didn’t have a good rig or antenna system. I got my Technician in 1981. VHF and UHF were my mainstay. And there I stayed until the FCC, in 1987, combined the different classes of licenses. I was able to go to General because I already had the written portion of General, and a 5WPM code endorsement. So as much as I loved hearing CW, I never became proficient at it.

Until 2019! A ham friend recently asked if I made any New Year’s resolutions. No, why make something you know you’re going to break in a few weeks? Then another friend called and said I had a piece of traffic on the evening CW net. WOW, it was from someone welcoming me to the FISTS group. You see, FISTS is giving out free two-year membership for a limited time. And in two year, it’s $15.00 a year. If you are already a FISTS member, you don’t send in your dues, but renew online and get an extension to your membership. It’s all on their website (www.fistsna.org).

Now, how do you start learning CW? There are several ways! Try these free internet programs (www.lcwo.net) is a good place to start. Learn CW Online will teach you the characters (two at a time) and then will add one more when you can copy the first two at 90%. They’ll add all the letters, numbers and Prosigns, one at a time. LCWO also has graphs to show how you are doing. Then there’s Koch Method CW Tutor. Go to: (www.g4fon.net). It uses the same method of learning two characters, then another. Both programs have a way to “add” noise as the code is sent. Just like being on the air.

One of the best articles I’ve found on the web is The Art and Skill of Radio-Telegraphy (TASRT) by William G. Pierpont N0HFF. It’s a great introductory free eBook that you will find fascinating. Grab it at: (www.tasrt.ca/TASRT/index.html). It’s a long read, but well worth your time.

The Straight Key Century Club (www.skccgroup.com) is another CW club that has a lot of members. They offer CW events on the air every week! Mentors are available to help you get on the air. Check out their Beginners Corner in the menu list on the left side of their homepage. Lots of good reads there, too! One more thing — You need motivation!

An old CW op and a new CW op were out in a fishing boat one day. The new CW op said “I wish I could operate CW as well as you.” Not saying a thing, the old CW op scratched his chin, set down his fishing pole and grabbed the new CW op by the back of his head and pushed his face underwater outside the fishing boat, and held him there fighting for a long time. After a while he released the new CW op. “Why’d you do that?” the new CW op wailed, gasping for air. The old CW op just leaned back and said, “When you want to learn CW as much as you wanted to breathe; then you will learn CW.”

Ok, I’m starting over again. What about you?

73, Jeff Blythe KA4WYC, SKCC #1889, FISTS #19060
Charlotte Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the January 2019 Business Meeting
Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters, 510 Archdale Drive, Charlotte, NC
To promote the technical craft of amateur radio through training, mentoring and enhancing fellowship among radio amateurs.

DATE: January 5, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: 09:31am by President Jeff Blythe KA4WYC

WELCOME/OPENING REMARKS: Jeff welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our guests.

GUESTS: David Keever KV4N, Ron Yates, Tom Hunt KA3VVJ

INSTALLMENT of 2019 OFFICERS by Mike Patterson KG4PDA: Jeff Blythe KA4WYC (President), Mike Miranda W4DXL (Vice President), P. Susan Nosko N4PSN (Secretary), and Joe Ducar KJ4QFV (Treasurer).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jeff asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November Business Meeting, as distributed by the Secretary. Steve Nosko W4SJN made a motion to approve the minutes; it was seconded by David Cantley WD4DDC. The motion passed.

GUEST REPORT
Charlotte Hamfest (David Keever KV4N, Tom Hunt KA3VVJ): David announced that the Charlotte Hamfest will take place on March 8-9, 2019 this year. For information, visit: charlottehamfest.org.

REPORTS
Treasurer’s Report (Joe Ducar KJ4QFV): Joe gave the yearly financial status of the club. Approval of Treasurer’s Report: Jeff asked for a motion to approve the November Treasurer’s Report. Susan moved to approve the report. David Cantley seconded it. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS
1. Remote Club Station Access (David Cantley WD4DDC, Jeff KA4WYC): David will report on the installation of a remote station in clubroom. Cost and simplicity was important in his research. We have radio equipment in our clubroom which we rarely use, and we have club members in nursing home and guys with antenna restrictions who could be using it. We’d like to make it more accessible to our members. (Approximate purchase cost: $579.00) David presented a video about Remote Shack and also one about Remote Shack’s Client Microphone Interface. The club will purchase the equipment; members have the option of paying a premium to have this access.

   Remote Controlled Antenna System: Jeff decided there was no need to make this report since Remote Club provides the desired remote antenna access.

   Rotor and Control Box needs to be replaced in the clubroom by Ted Williams KE6QEY.

2. Channel 36 Tower Contract (Jeff KA4WYC): Report on the status of all contracts for our repeater system, WCNC, Wells Fargo, and downtown repeater(s). Jeff needs to sign the liability insurance policy for the Salvation Army. Mike Patterson provided contract after the meeting. Joe and Jeff signed a one-year contract. Jeff gave Mike Patterson a copy of our certificate of liability.

3. Website and Email Reflector (Shawn Goodin K4SRG, Mike Miranda W4DXL):
   
   Accomplishments so far:
   
   Corrected Club Officers page to add present and last year’s officers, along with photos
   Corrected Contact Us page to add officers, correct mailing addresses, and remove non-working contact email address (w4cq@w4cq.us)
Added smtp mailer to the site so that emails may be sent
Enabled mail forwarder – members can optionally have a callsign@w4cq.org email address that forwards to their real (secret?) email address
Removed all old events from the Calendar of Events
Added events for 2019 (meetings, hamfests, Field Day) to the Calendar of Events
Fixed the QRZ callsign search function and updated all software for website support to current levels
Updated main page to indicate current meeting date/time/location (1st Saturday at 9:30am)
Corrected Membership Roster to indicate current members
Added “catch-all” email for w4cq.org to capture any misrouted emails to w4cq.org
Added HF / VHF Solar Propagation to the website; updated Membership application form on website
Made several offsite backups of the website (last backup was in 2014!)

**Notes and Observations:**
Club domain names for W4CQ.ORG, W4CQ.NET, and W4CQ.COM do not expire until sometime in 2020 (different dates).

We no longer own W4CQ.US. – I suspect it wasn’t renewed in a timely manner and another company (probably an Internet squatter) grabbed it about 11/03/2018. The website itself may be of Malaysian origin now.  [We had decided to give up the website.]

**Suggestions:**
I suggest setting up emails for president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer at w4cq.org so that correspondence may easily be sent to those folks. These would be forwarding addresses that would go to the individual’s real email address.

I suggest setting up officers@w4cq.org to point to all four Club officers. [Shawn was authorized to set this up by Jeff.]

5. **Newsletter** (Susan Nosko N4PSN): Susan will send past newsletters to Shawn Goodin K4SRG so they can be posted to our website.

**NEW BUSINESS**
1. **Dues and Courtesy Memberships** (Jeff KA4WYC):

2. **Tower Repair Costs** and **Courtesy Membership to Justin Herron** (Jeff KA4WYC): Jeff informed the membership that our tower repair bill (based upon repair services provided by David Hass, KK4OEW and Justin Herron) came in to $782 -- an amount which David Hass donated to W4CQ. In response, Jeff called for a motion to offer Justin Herron a courtesy membership. due to liability concerns, and as an extension of friendship and for working with David on our repeater. Mike made the motion. Shawn seconded it. The motion passed. David Hass paid club dues for himself and Steve Koone KA4YMY ($40.00, company check).

   **Monetary gift to Justin:** Jeff suggested offering Justin a monetary gift for his tower repair services donation. Discussion ensued. No motion was offered.

3. **Special Service Club Status**: Jeff will talk to Tim Slay N4IB for renewing our Special Service Club standing. The website needs to show our full club name. Jeff will contact them on Monday.

**ADJOURNMENT**
David Cantley WD4DDC moved the meeting be adjourned. Gary Christian W4GDC seconded it. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:12am.

Respectfully submitted, P. Susan Nosko N4PSN, W4CQ Club Secretary
## Gary Whitt’s KN4ICY Weekly Net List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Name</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Offset</th>
<th>Tone</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Backup/Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Piedmont Spotter Group</td>
<td>145.230</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>118.8</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Nightly</td>
<td>Spencer Mtn.</td>
<td>145.290</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlotte Regional Skywarn</td>
<td>145.230</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>118.8</td>
<td>As Needed</td>
<td>Spencer Mtn.</td>
<td>444.450</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metrolina 2 Meter Emergency</td>
<td>146.940</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>118.8</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td>Nightly</td>
<td>Spencer Mtn.</td>
<td>145.230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Co. Amateur Radio Society</td>
<td>147.030</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>88.5</td>
<td>2030</td>
<td>Nightly</td>
<td>Rock Hill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC Evening Net</td>
<td>145.370</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>94.8</td>
<td>2130</td>
<td>Nightly</td>
<td>N. Wilkesboro</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Doughnut Net</td>
<td>145.170</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>88.5</td>
<td>2030</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Anderson Mtn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>York County Ares</td>
<td>147.225</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>110.9</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Rock Hill</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carolina Amateur Radio Club</td>
<td>145.350</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>82.5</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>147.505</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jabbernet</td>
<td>224.400</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>no tone</td>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>146.940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Co. Volunteer Comm.</td>
<td>147.015</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>141.3</td>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Lincolnnton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Coast IRLP Net</td>
<td>443.250</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>136.5</td>
<td>2030</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>China Grove</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCARS Trader’s Net</td>
<td>147.120</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2030</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Spencer Mtn.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>145.410</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>136.5</td>
<td>2045</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>China Grove</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mecklenburg Co. Ares</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>2100</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt Mitchell Preppers Net</td>
<td>145.190</td>
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<td>no tone</td>
<td>2030</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swap Net</td>
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<td>2030</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Crowders Mtn.</td>
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<td>145.190</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>no tone</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Mt. Mitchell</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>-</td>
<td>no tone</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Mt. Mitchell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6600 Net</td>
<td>145.190</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>no tone</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Mt. Mitchell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Grove Net</td>
<td>145.410</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>136.5</td>
<td>2030</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>China Grove</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dixie Pirates Net</td>
<td>145.410</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>136.5</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>China Grove</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Meter Net</td>
<td>28.340 USB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rock Hill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piedmont Simplex Net</td>
<td>147.505</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**The Connector** is the official newsletter of the Charlotte Amateur Radio Club. It’s published monthly.

As Editor of *The W4CQ News*, I welcome pictures (.jpeg), articles (Word doc), and any other member contributions. Please send your submission to *W4CQ.Susan@gmail.com*. As Editor, I reserve the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month’s newsletter is the third Friday of that month. Anything received later may be held for the next month’s publication.

As *The Connector* Editor, I am honored to serve the good people of the Charlotte Amateur Radio Club.

73,

*P. Susan Nosko N4PSN*